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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kanako HONDA

Group Art Unit: 2625

Application No.: 09/692,101

Examiner: Timothy M. Johnson

Filed: October 20, 2000

Docket No.: 107641

For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, INFORMATION CAPTURING APPARATUS, INFORMATION INTEGRATION APPARATUS, CONTROLLER, OBJECT DETECTOR, AND INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

Technology Center 2600

In reply to the March 9, 2004 Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Species I, Figs. 1-17. It is submitted that claims 1-35 read on the elected Species. The election is made with traverse.

Further, it is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in

order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-35 can be examined without undue burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Election of Species Requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:TMN/dmw

Date: April 7, 2004

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